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Message Text

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43
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 AID-05 /096 W
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R 170714Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6196
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 4341

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SN
SUBJ: SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL'S PROPOSED INVESTIGATION OF
SINGAPORE: A TOUCH OF IMPUDENCE

REF: A. SINGAPORE A-96, B. LONDON 14427, C. SINGAPORE 2695
(AND PREVIOUS)

1. THE ACCEPTANCE ON SEPTEMBER 11 BY THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL (SI) OF THE PEOPLE'S ACTION PARTY (PAP) RESIGNATION AND A PROPOSAL FOR SENDING AN SI INVESTIGATIVE MISSION TO SINGAPORE WERE GIVEN FULL PLAY IN THE SEPTEMBER 13 EDITIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT-INFLUENCED STRAITS TIMES (ST) AND NEW NATION.

2. ST HAD A LENGTHY, BALANCED REPORT ON THE FRONT PAGE AND AN EDITORIAL THAT OUTLINED THE RATIONALE FOR THE PAP STANCE. EDITORIAL CONCLUDED BY ARGUING THAT THE DLP POSITION QUESTIONED THE RIGHT OF THE PAP TO GOVERN IN A MANNER "WHICH HAS THE OVERWHELMING SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE. AND THAT IS INTOLERABLE".

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3. THE NEW NATION'S EDITORIAL FOCUSED ON THE PROPOSED INVESTI-

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GATIVE MISSION. THERE WAS A REVIEW OF THE DUTCH LABOR PARTY'S (DLP) INTRANSIGENCE ON THE POLITICAL DETAINEE ISSUE AND OF THE COUNTER-INSURGENCY RATIONALE FOR THE PAP'S DETENTION POLICY. SINCE PAP HAD "RESIGNED FROM THE SI IN DISGUST", NEW NATION OPINED THAT IT WAS "UNLIKELY THAT THE PAP...WOULD ENTERTAIN SUCH A MISSION". HOWEVER, IT CONCLUDED ON A COMPROMISING NOTE: "IT MAY BE A GOOD IDEA FOR AN OBSERVER TEAM TO COME OUT AND HELP UPDATE THE SI'S UNDERSTANDING OF THE SITUATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA".

4. COMMENT: IT APPEARS MOST UNLIKELY THAT THE GOS WOULD CONSENT TO THE VISIT OF AN SI INVESTIGATIVE MISSION EITHER NOW -- BEFORE ELECTIONS WHICH COULD OCCUR AS EARLY AS NOVEMBER -- OR AT SOME SUBSEQUENT DATE. BARRING A MODIFICATION OF THE PAP OR DUTCH LABOR PARTY POSITIONS, WE BELIEVE THE CHANCES FOR A PAP-SI RECONCILIATION TO BE REMOTE.

5. THE PAP-SI CONTROVERSY, AS VIEWED FROM THIS DISTANT ISLAND, IS DISCUSSED AT LENGTH IN REF A, WHICH IS ENROUTE. GRANT

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